

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-05 SY-04

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

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R 222100Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4913

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR MX

SUBJ: SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS DEMONSTRATES IN MEXICO CITY

SUMMARY: THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS (PST), A SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE HEBERTO CASTILLO-LED PARTY OF MEXICAN WORKERS (PMT - SEE A-457, OCT 16, 1974), HELD RALLY OF 4-5,000 MEMBERS, MOSTLY CAMPESINOS, IN MEXICO CITY NOV 21.

AT LOS PINOS, PST PRESENTED PETITION TO PRES ECHEVERRIA, WHO ENCOURAGED GROUP TO ACT WITHIN THE LAW, AND THEN MARCHED TO MONUMENT OF REVOLUTION FOR 1 1/2 HOUR PEACEFUL RALLY OF SONGS AND SPEECHES. PRINCIPAL PURPOSES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MORALE-BUILDING SHOW OF STRENGTH AND SUPPORT FOR CAMPESINO UNIONS. PST LEADER APPARENTLY IS EX-FED DEPUTY CESAR DEL ANGEL.

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END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOV 21 THE NASCENT SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS (PST) HELD A RALLY OF 4-5000 MEMBERS IN MEXICO CITY. EMBOFF, WHO OBSERVED MARCH AND RALLY (AT CAPITAL'S MONUMENT OF REVOLUTION) COUNTED 40 BUSES WHICH HAD BROUGHT CAMPESINOS PRINCIPALLY FROM STATES OF VERACRUZ, GUERRERO, MICHOACAN, TLAXCALA, MEXICO, AND OAXACA. MARCH BEGAN FROM PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE LOS PINOS, WHERE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SAID THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION WILL NOT BE A STEP BACKWARD FOR THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION, CONDEMNED "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND ENCOURAGED PST TO ACT WITHIN THE LAW. PST LEADER CESAR DEL ANGEL GAVE ECHEVERRIA PETITION OF CAMPESINOS DEMANDS AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR FISCAL REFORM PACKAGE WHILE TERMING IT INSUFFICIENT AND MODERATE. PST EMBERS THEN MARCHED TO REVOLUTION MONUMENT AND DISPERSED AFTER 1 1/2 HOUR RALLY. MARCHERS, WHO WERE IN GOOD HUMOR, WERE CLEARLY CAMPESINOS. MARSHALLS IN RED ARMBANDS, WHO LED CHORUS OF SLOGAN SHOUTING, AND WHO WERE SELLING PST NEWSPAPER EL INSURGENTE SOCIALISTA, APPEARED TO BE MIDDLE CLASS, STUDENT-AGED. SPEECHES WERE GENERAL IN ANTURE, EXCEPT FOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT OF LAW WHICH WOULD CREATE CAMPESINO UNIONS (SEE PARA 3, BELOW).

2. PST IS SPLINTER GROUP (IN EARLY 1973) FROM THE HEBERTO CASTILLO-LED PARTY OF MEXICAN WORKERS (PMT). ALTHOUGH LEADER IN 1973 REPORTEDLY WAS RAFAEL AGUILAR TALAMANTES, LEADER NOW APPEARS TO BE EX-FEDERAL DEPUTY (1964-1967), FROM VERACRUZ) CESAR DEL ANGEL. DEL ANGEL WAS SUPPORTER OF FORMER PRI PRESIDENT (KILLED IN 1969 PLANE CRASH) CARLOS MADIAZO, WHO WAS APPOINTED BY PRES DIAZ ORDAZ AND THEN OUSTED FROM PARTY LEADERSHIP WHEN MADRAZO'S ATTEMPTED REFORMS OF THE PRI (E.G. PARTY PRIMARIES) CAUSED SEVERE REACTION. DEL ANGEL WAS ARRESTED UPON EXPIRATION OF HIS TERM AS FEDERAL DEPUTY IN SEPT 1967 FOR ALLEGED FOLE IN "ACAPULCO MASSACRE" OF AUGUST 1967, IN WHICH TWENTY-SEVEN COPRA WORKERS WERE KILLED. DEL ANGEL WAS ACQUITTED OF THESE CHARTES IN 1969 AND RELEASED AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT. IN 1972 HE WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WITH PRES ECHEVERRIA DISCUSSING PROBLEMS OF VERACRUZ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOBACCO WORKERS.

3. PST IN RECENT WEEKS HAS BECOME MORE ACTIVE AND VISIBLE. ON OCT 29 IT TEAMED WITH THE CONFEDERATION OF INDEPDENDENT CAMPESINOS (CCI) AND AGROUP CALLED THE MEXICAN AGRARIAN COUNCIL (CAM) TO INVADE OFFICES OF THE GOM DEPT. OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS AND DEMAND EXPROPRIATION OF LANDS BELONGING TO SEVERAL SUPPOSED LATIFUNDISTAS (LARGE

LAND OWNERS). ON NOV 7 A THOUSAND PST MEMBERS (MOSTLY VERACRUZ TOBACCO WORKERS) RALLIED OUTSIDE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WHILE DEL ANGEL AND OTHER PST SPOKESMEN PRESENTED DRAFT LAW CALLING FOR UNIONIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS TO CHAMBER LEADER CARLOS SANORES PEREZ, WHO ACCEPTED DRAFT AS A "PETITION" AND PROMISED IT WOULD RECEIVE STUDY BY APPROPRIATE COMMISSION.

4. COMMENT: PST RALLY WAS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS SIZE AND ORDERLINESS. RALLY MARSHALL TOLD EMBOFF THAT EACH RURAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTED HAD CHIPPED IN TO PURCHASE BUS TRANSPORTATION, WHICH IS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO BELIVE, GIVEN VISIBLY EXTREME POVERTY OF CAMPESINOS PRESENT. MARSHALL WAS PLEASED WITH RALLY, PREDICTED PST WOULD WIN REGISTRATION AS POLITICAL PARTY, ACKNOWLEDGED SOME "COINCIDENCE" OF VIEWS BETWEEN PST AND PMT BUT SAID MAJOR DIFFERENCE WAS GREATER PST EMPHASIS ON AGRARIAN PROBLEM. EMBOFF ALSO SPOKE TO SEVERAL DIFFERENT CAMPESINOS ALL OF WHOM IDENTIFIED DEL ANGEL AS APTTY LEADER AND WHO DESCRIBED "UNIONS" AS BEING THEIR POLITICAL OBJECTIVE. THIS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT SIMPLY BUSED IN, IN STAGED AFFAIR.
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